

John Boehner  
Chairman  
8th District, Ohio

*House Meets at 9:30 a.m. for Legislative Business*

*Anticipated Floor Action:*

**H.R. 2107—FY 1998 Interior Appropriations Act**



**H.R. 2107—FY 1998 Interior Appropriations Act**

**Floor Situation:** The House will continue consideration of H.R. 2107 as its only order of business today. Yesterday, the House completed general debate and began considering amendments under an open rule. The rule waives points of order against the bill for containing measures within the jurisdiction of the Budget Committee that were not reported by it. It also waives House rules prohibiting unauthorized appropriations, legislative measures in an appropriations bill, and reappropriations, except for measures regarding the Forest Service timber purchaser road construction credit program and the National Endowment for the Arts. The rule accords priority in recognition to members who have their amendments pre-printed in the *Congressional Record*. In addition, the rule makes in order three specific amendments—by Mr. Ehlers, Mr. Weldon (FL), and Mr. Crapo—for the amount of time specified below and waives points of order against them. It permits the chairman of the Committee of the Whole to postpone votes and reduce the voting time on a postponed vote to five minutes, so long as it follows a regular 15-minute vote. Finally, the rule provides one motion to recommit, with or without instructions.

**Summary:** H.R. 2107 appropriates \$13 billion in new FY 1998 budget authority, \$546 million less than last year (when including FY 1997 supplemental appropriations) and \$132 million less than the president's request. Approximately half of the bill's funding, \$6.5 billion, finances Interior Department programs to manage and study the nation's animal, plant, and mineral resources. The balance of the bill's funds support other, non-Interior agencies that perform related functions. These include the Forest Service, conservation and fossil energy programs run by the Department of Energy, the Indian Health Service, and the Smithsonian Institution and similar cultural organizations.

The bill increases funding over FY 1997 levels for several programs, providing:

- \* \$1.2 billion for the operation of national parks, \$77 million more than last year and \$12 million more than the president's request;

- \* \$725.1 million for Fish and Wildlife Service, an increase of \$54.5 million and a \$37.2 million increase over the president's request;
- \* \$136 million for the Everglades Initiative, an increase of \$79 million;
- \* \$1.7 billion for Native American programs, an increase of \$65 million; and
- \* \$502 million for cultural institutions, an increase of \$16 million, including (1) \$388 million for the Smithsonian, (2) \$62 million for the National Gallery of Art, (3) \$20 million for the Kennedy Center, and (4) \$32 million for the Holocaust Museum.

In order to fund these increases, the bill terminates several programs and cuts funding for others. Specifically, the bill (1) terminates funding for the National Endowment for the Arts (leaving \$10 million for close-out costs); (2) eliminates the \$5.8 million Woodrow Wilson Center (leaving \$1 million for close-out costs); (3) cuts Department of Energy Fossil Energy and Research and Development by \$53 million; and (4) cuts funding for the Minerals Management Service and the Naval Petroleum and Oil Shale Reserves. In addition, the bill does not include \$700 million for certain land acquisitions that were included in the budget agreement. CBO estimates that enactment will result in outlays of \$13.1 billion over five years. The bill was submitted by Mr. Regula and reported by the Appropriations Committee by voice vote on June 26, 1997.

**Views (on the overall bill):**

**Republican Leadership:** Supports

**Chairman Livingston (Full):** Supports

**Chairman Regula (Sub):** Supports

**Clinton Administration:** No Position Available

**Amendments:** The House completed debate, but did not vote on, the following amendments yesterday:

- \* an amendment (#5) by **Messrs. Klug, Miller (FL), and Foley** to cut funding for the Department of Energy's (DOE) Clean Coal Technology program by an additional \$292 billion, for a total reduction of \$392 million (the bill currently rescinds \$100 million). The Clean Coal Technology program is a technology development effort jointly funded by government and industry to research, develop, and demonstrate advanced coal-based technologies. When the president submitted his FY 1998 budget request, the program had \$570 million in unobligated balances available. **Staff Contact: Kathy Hahn (Klug), x5-2906; Chris Kinnan (Miller), x5-5015; Shawn Gallagher (Foley), x5-5792**
- \* an amendment (#10) by **Mr. Royce** to reduce funding for the fossil energy research and development account by \$21 million. **Contact: x5-4111**

The *Legislative Digest* was aware of the following other amendments to H.R. 2107:

**Mr. Coburn** may offer an amendment (#1) to prohibit any funds from being used to support the U.S. Man and the Biosphere program (USMAB) or the World Heritage Program. Biosphere Reserves and World Heritage Sites are under the jurisdiction of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO). Biosphere Reserves are part of the USMAB which operates in conjunction with a worldwide program under UNESCO. The USMAB operates with-

out legislative direction and is not authorized by Congress, and the U.S. withdrew from UNESCO in 1984. Biosphere reserves, as well as World Heritage Sites and the areas surrounding them, may be subject to international land management rules. In FY 1996, the National Park Service, the National Forest Service, the Smithsonian, and the Bureau of Land Management contributed a total of \$170,000 to USMAB. *Staff Contact: Neil Bradley, x5-2701*

**Mr. Chabot** may offer an amendment to eliminate funding for the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH). The bill provides \$110 million for the NEH, including \$13.9 million for matching grants. NEH funding is used to support education, research, media grants, museums, and historical organizations. *Contact: x5-2216*

**Mr. Crapo** may offer an amendment, debatable for 20 minutes, to amend the 1974 Budget Act to create a lock-box for each appropriation bill (House, Senate, and House-Senate Conference) to capture savings from floor amendments that cut spending in order to reduce the federal budget deficit. Congress' mandatory discretionary spending limits would then be reduced by that amount. *Contact: x5-5531*

**Mr. Ehlers and Mr. Hunter** may offer an amendment, debatable for 60 minutes, to terminate the National Endowment for the Arts, but retain a federal commitment to arts funding. Specifically, the amendment provides \$80 million in arts funding that will be allocated to the states in two block grants as follows: (1) it directs 37 percent to state art commissions, allocating \$29.6 million, a \$3.7 million increase over the \$25.9 million funding level for the NEA in FY 1997 (distributed to states based on population, with a 200,000 person minimum); (2) it directs 60 percent to local school boards to fund school-based arts activities, allocating \$48 million (distributed to states based on its K-12 school-aged population); and (3) it allows the remaining three percent for administrative costs. Schools may not cut their own arts funding and continue to receive federal arts education grants and no funding may be used to sponsor obscene or pornographic art.

Proponents of the amendment argue that it maintains the commitment to terminate federal control over arts funding while providing greater accountability and more equitable funding for arts activities. Opponents argue that termination of the NEA is unacceptable and is just the first step in a broader effort to eliminate all federal arts funding. Other opponents contend that any federal funding is unjustified and that arts activities and programs will continue to flourish without federal funding. *Contact: x5-3831*

**Mr. Istook and Mr. Visclosky** may offer an amendment to prohibit any funds from being used to transfer any new federal lands into tribal trust until Indian tribes reach a binding agreement regarding state and local sales taxes on sales to non-Indians. *Staff Contact: John Albaugh (Istook), x6-2155*

**Mr. Sanders and Mr. Quinn** may offer an amendment (#12) to increase funding for the weatherization assistance program by \$11.1 million, to a total level of \$132 million. The increased funding is offset by an equal cut in funding for the naval petroleum and oil shale reserves. *Staff Contact: Aura Kenny (Quinn), x5-3306; Steve Crowley (Sanders), x5-4115*

**Mr. Stupak** may offer an amendment (#15) to prohibit any funds from being used to evict any person from the property of Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore if that person was authorized, on July 10, 1997, to occupy the property under a lease or permit issued by the Department of Interior. *Staff Contact: Justin Zimmerman, x5-4735*

**Mr. Weldon (FL)** may offer an amendment, debatable for 10 minutes, to prohibit the National Park Service from allocating any funds to designate the Canaveral National Seashore in Brevard County, Florida, as a “clothing-optional” area or nude beach, if the designation is contrary to a local county ordinance. In 1995, the National Park Service posted “clothing-optional” signs, effectively designating a section of the park as a nude beach. Although the signs have since been taken down, the sponsor is concerned that community decency standards have been thwarted and that families will be discouraged from visiting. *Contact: x5-2011*

**Mr. Yates** may offer an amendment to restore the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) funding level to its FY 1997 level of \$99.5 million, an increase of \$89.5 million from the bill’s current level. The increased funding is offset by the sale of excess naval petroleum and oil shale reserves. *Staff Contact: Maura Reidy, x5-2111*

**Mr. Young (AK)** may offer an amendment (#14) to prohibit any funds made available to the Indian Health Service to be used to restructure the funding of Indian health delivery systems to Alaskan Natives. *Staff Contact: Cynthia Ahwinona, x6-0382*

**Additional Information:** See *Legislative Digest*, Vol. XXVI, #19, July 3, 1997.



PLEASE NOTE: UNDER AN OPEN RULE, MEMBERS MAY OFFER ENTIRELY NEW AMENDMENTS TO A BILL AT ANY TIME, REGARDLESS OF WHETHER THEY HAVE BEEN PRE-PRINTED IN THE *CONGRESSIONAL RECORD*.

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